

Provo Canyon, small homes and cabins have marked the area since before the turn of the century. Their number and permanency was very slight however. After the first World War the area began to grow and develop steadily. The area has been owned, prior to 1943, by several different families. The Slick family was one of the early owners and it is reported that it is from a young daughter, Vivian Slick, that the area received its name. Some other early owners were the Jim Poulton and Parley Hafen families. The area was originally homesteaded by William Ferguson, who at one time operated a toll gate on the early road through the canyon[see above].

During the years of the First World War, some of the early owners started building and developing the area. One such owner was the Associated Investment Company of Salt Lake City. They ran an ad in the Provo Post(a forerunner of the Herald) on July 18, 1916 which states among other things, *Home Sweet Home In The Good Old Summer Time At VIVIAN PARK, in the Heart of Provo Canyon.* Apparently in the beginning, it was a camping and picknicking area, but then the investment company began selling lots.

The ad goes on to say, *VIVIAN PARK is equipped to furnish the ideal comforts of summer with its naturally attractive location, which includes fishing, boating, hiking, swimming, camping, dancing and a dozen other summer sports.....26 camping tents; 10 bungalows; spacious dining room accommodations; store; dancing hall; daily mail service; railroad facilities; electric lights; telephones; swings for the children and an abundance of shade are some of the features....VIVIAN PARK offers you the opportunity of acquiring a permanent summer home at "ground floor prices".* Throughout the 1910's, 1920's and 1930's, there were more advertisements in the Provo paper promoting dances being held at Vivian Park. World War II brought among other things gas rationing, which put a damper on cars cruising the canyon, so things changed at that time.

In later years, the Vivian Park Home Owners Association was incorporated on September 6, 1943, and the incorporation is to last for 100 years. The incorporated town or community was to be governed by a Board of Directors. The board holds annual meetings.

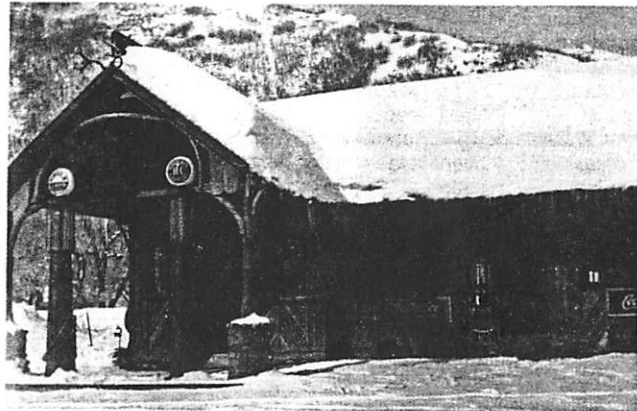
In addition to Vivian Park, several summer homes and some ranch homes have been built further up South Fork. Provo City has acquired 1001 acres[405 hectares] for future recreational developments in the Big Spring, Bunnell's Fork and Shingle Mill Canyons of South Fork(Campbell).

Today at Vivian Park there are the small cabin-type homes, some of which are lived in on a year-round basis. There is also a small county owned and operated picnic site, with a covered ramada and a duck pond. Next to the park is where the Heber C-eeeper terminates its down-canyon run in summer-time.

Right on the highway and where the South Fork road crosses the Provo River is the **Chalet Cafe**, a long-time land mark in the canyon built in about 1937 by Grover Purvance and John Carter. Just across the highway from the Chalet is the River Bend Trailer Park. Down canyon less than a km from the Chalet is the small recreation site now called Frazier Park.

About one km up-canyon or to the east of the Chalet Cafe, is where the North Fork Creek enters Provo Canyon. This is where you turn off Highway 189 onto the Alpine Scenic Loop Road toward Sundance and Aspen Grove. At that junction is another small, mostly summer home-type community called **Wildwood**.

This settlement began with a small ranch owned by George I. Taylor, which was purchased by a group of 14 citizens who formed what was known as Wildwood Resort Company in June of 1906. The



Y. M. Offret's gas station at Wildwood in 1941(Bertha McKean Offret foto).



Y.M. Offret's train at Wildwood in 1945(Bertha McKean Offret foto).

to determine the location of individual cabin sites. Part of the area nearest the highway was set aside for recreation such as tennis courts. In the early years, the various families set up tents, some with wooden floors.

A service station built next to the highway ran by a Frenchman named Y. M. Offret who lived in the stone house near the community. In 1929, after spending some time leasing the Cliff Inn service station

at Offret built a service station and store. Over a period of years he moved to the place. He had a small childrens railroad that ran in and out, and he had a perpetual motion water wheel and tap which never ran out for any passersby. The small store was run by his wife. Offret lived at Wildwood until his death in 1967. After that the Wildwood Association members decided to keep the store a year or two after his death.

North Fork went right up the middle of Wildwood, but as the crowds grew, the association of cabin owners asked the county to build the road which is about where it is today. Today, many of the cabin owners are still there.

*Distances of  
from Train  
roadside stand  
running down  
creek  
of cabins  
over P. River*



STOCK NO. GA-032

PLACES: Sharon, Windsor, Vt.

ENTER ALL DATA IN THIS ORDER:  
DATES: 14 Apr 1794

To indicate that a child is an ancestor of the person submitting the sheet, place an "X" behind the number pertaining to that child.

HUSBAND

Born \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Marr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

HUSBAND'S FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ HUSBAND'S MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_

HUSBAND'S OTHER WIVES \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE

Born \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Chr. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Died \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

Bur. \_\_\_\_\_ Place \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S FATHER \_\_\_\_\_ WIFE'S MOTHER \_\_\_\_\_

WIFE'S OTHER HUSBANDS \_\_\_\_\_

SEX M F	CHILDREN List each child (whether living or dead) in order of birth Given Names SURNAME	WHEN BORN			WHERE BORN
		DAY	MONTH	YEAR	TOWN
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

1. Provo Herald

OTHER MARRIAGES

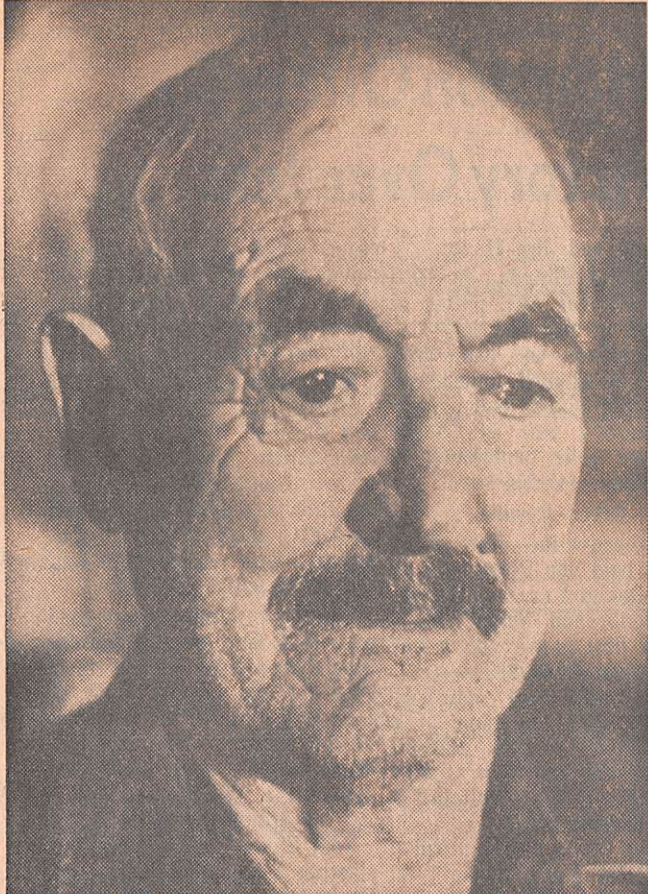
NECESSARY EXPLANATIONS

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Husband  
Wife

Y M OFFRET

# Man of Many Hobbies Makes Canyon Resort an Interesting Attraction



CHARACTER STUDY of Y. M. Offret, 83-year-old Wildwood hobbyist, made by Ed Scripps of Herald staff during interview.

Interest of Wildwood, in Provo Canyon, has brought people from the world over, and all though the resort, Y. M. Offret, 83, has set up various art subjects, scientific projects, and just plain interesting scenes.

Constantly working, Mr. Offret claims he now has over 15 hobbies. "There is never a dull moment," he said.

**Self-Educated**

Born in Pennsylvania he moved to Colorado, then to Riverbottom, Utah. With a six-grade education, Mr. Offret went into the carpentry profession, and also did many odd jobs, graduating into sand paintings and bark paintings and selling some of them. During the same time, 15 years ago, he has built up a large rock collection.

He makes tumble rocks to sell and with some rocks he has made artistic pictures.

**Song Writer**

"Music has always interested me," he said. "I have written over 50 songs, and also made two violins."

Also, short story and novel writing are an attraction to him.

At Wildwood he designed and made the Mystery Fountain.

Tourists come to see it, then walk away bewildered.

It's a small barrel which constantly pours water out of a spout, but it appears that no water comes in. Where does the water come from?

Beside the fountain there is a place where people can drop a penny, where Mr. Offret collects some 70-80 dollars annually.

**Ribbons At Fair**

He has done cabinet work and has received eight ribbons for his woodwork at the State Fair.

For the resort Mr. Offret built a model train which can carry up to 46 adults.

With his wife he has been constantly busy with various hobbies "keeping life interesting".

Yves was  
"Yph" Offret